Daily Eagle

THE GRAVES OF THE FLOWERS.

The woods are full of tiny graves,
The sweet graves of the flowers.
That sprang in every sheltered nook,
Amid the springtime hours.
The buttercup lies on the slope
Where first the sunlight fell:
The violet sleeps beside the rill,
The daisy in the dell.

Upon no stone is carved the name
Of April's children fair;
They perished when the sky was bright
And gentle was the air.
To the soft kisses of the breeze
They held half trembling, up,
Full many a small transparent urn
And honey laden cup.

And when the roses budded out,
In summer's balmy hours,
No little mound was made to tell
Where slept the gentle flowers.
Those early flowers—they seem to me
Like little children sweet,
Who smile a moment on our path,
Then perish at our feet.

—Louise Chitwood.

DOCK LIFE IN LONDON.

The Seamy Side of Existence in the English Metropolis—Social Isolation.

The universal dislocation of the social life of East London manifests itself in the docks not only by the absence of all ties between employer, foremen and men, but in the complete severance of the different grades of labor, and, among the more respectable of the working class, in the isolation of the individual family. The "permanent" man of the docks ranks in the social scale below the skilled mechanic or artisan. With a wage usually from twenty to twenty-five shillings a week and an average family, he exists above the line of poverty, though in times of domestic trouble he frequently sinks below it. He is perforce respectable, and his life must needs be monotonous. His work requires little skill or intelligence; the one absolute condition is regular and constant attendance all the year through. He has even a vested interest in regularity, the dock company acting as a benefit society in sickness and death, an interest which he forfeits if he is discharged for neglect of work.

By the irregular hands the permanent man is looked upon as an inferior foreman, and disliked as such, or despised as a drudge. He, in his turn, resents the popular characterization of dock laborers as the "scum of the earth." As a rule the permanent men do not live in the immediate neighborhood of the docks. They are scattered far and wide in Forest Gate, Hackney, Upton and other outlying districts, the regularity of their wage enabling them to live in a small house rented at the same figure as one room in Central London. And if the temptation of cheap food and employment for the wife and children induces a man to inhabit St. George's in the east or Limehouse, he will be found in a "Peabody" or some strictly regulated model dwelling. He will tell you: "I make a point of not mixing with any one," and perhaps he will sorrowfully complain "when the women gets thick together there's always a row." It is the direful result of the wholesale desertion of these districts by the better classes that respectability means social isolation with its cufeebling and disheartening effect.

In common with all other workingmen with a moderate but regular income, the permanent dock laborer is made by his wife. If she be a tidy woman and a good manager, decently versed in the rare arts of cooking and sewing, the family life is independent, even comfortable, and the children may follow in the father's footsteps or rise to better things. If she be a gossip and a bungler—worse still, a drunkard—the family sinks to the low level of the east London street, and the children are probably added to the number of those who gain their livelihood by irregular work and by irregular means.—The Nineteenth Century.

Wives of Old Marblehead.

They say that down at brave old Marblehead every third woman is a widow. Here among fisher folk the same is true. And so the going and coming, and going and never coming, have woven a warp and woof of smiles and tears here, which have mellowed and softened thousands of human hearts in a way you can quickly see and feel. Your fisherman who comes, and the wife, sweetheart or child, that is here to greet him, are o'er tender for it all. The old city is used to it and does not mind it. It is the way its toilers of the sea have. And so if you ever walk her streets and see a hulk of a fellow holding a happy woman as he would clutch a fife rail or a capstan head in a heavy storm, you will know he is simply "making fast" with the strong hawser of an honest love to the very anchorage of his life, utterly unconscious of your, or anybody's sense of the proprieties. And this tenderness, too, is all compassing. There are many trusts and funds for the widow and fatherless, and these men give generously to them. The light and darkness of it all come piteously to cognizance even in the fisherman's gayest hours ashore.

On every week day night the whole year through, when the seaport is stirred by the arrival of fleets with their "fares" or cargoes of fish, there is a "fisherman's ball," and often many. These are never for individual profit, but invariably for the benefit of women whose hearts are breaking. For those who are merry making had comrades whose lives went out in a shrieking storm where a nor'easter swept some craft from its fastenings upon the Banks, or a dory was beaten into the seething sea. This year alone 17 fishing craft were lost and 127 fishermen were swept into eternity. The havoc goes on from year to year until one can hardly hear aught in the whistling winds and hoarse voices upon the breakers alongshore but the piercing cries of drowning fishermen and heart sickening dirges for the dead.—Edgar L. Wakeman in New York Mail and Express.

Concert Audiences Are Quiet.

Those whose inclination or business takes them to many of the musical entertainments in this city note the great difference in the characters of the audiences at operas and concerts. It is very rarely the case that the concert goer is disturbed by inattention on the part of his neighbors, as he is at opera. This is doubtless due in a great degree to the stern discipline of Theodore Thomas, who in the past exercised his power over his audiences as well as over his musicians. It has come to be quite the fashion nowadays for younger musicians to pause between the movements of the piece they are playing in order to permit some interesting conversation to be concluded before they begin their performance again. When such a pause is made everybody in the house knows what it means, unless it be the offending talkers. As a whole concert audiences are quiet and attentive, if not appreciative.—New York Sun.

The "Universal" Language.

Volapük, the so called universal language, is said to have seventy societies, ten periodicals, a literature of ninety-six books and 100,000 disciples. If its supporters are willing to confine its sphere to commercial intercourse, very well; but one cannot imagine a machine made language conveying delicate shades of meaning or having the grace and strength of our all sufficient English.—Public Opinion.

Salt plentifully sprinkled on the icy doorstep will have a better and cleaner effect than ashes.

For intense itching, bathe in salt water, dry with a coarse towel and rub with sweet oil.

Sweep and dust once a week the rooms which do not daily receive this attention.

DOCTORING A BIG BIRD.

How Gen. Dan Sickles Saved the Life of a South American Condor.

"Just after the war of the rebellion," said Gen. Daniel E. Sickles the other morning as he sat before his looking glass with a razor in his hand and a lather upon his face, "I was sent to Bogota by the United States government on a diplomatic mission. While there, in one of my numerous excursions about the city, I saw a condor and was instrumental in saving its life. The man who owned this bird had captured it when very young. It was fastened by a chain around one leg to a stake driven into the ground. The sight of the bird made a great impression on me. It was about seven feet in length, and the distance between the tips of its wings when outspread was about sixteen feet. It stood nearly three feet high. Its talons were as long as my fingers. Its eyes were as large as pigeon's eggs and blazed with a light which no captivity could subdue.

"I saved that condor's life. One of its legs had been attacked by a little insect peculiar to South America, which has a habit of worming its way into human and animal flesh, and multiplying with such frightful rapidity that the victim dies in a few days in excruciating agony. I have seen natives lying beside South American roads, their bodies swollen as large as a barrel from the inflammation produced by the ravages of this insect. One of the condor's legs had been badly lacerated by the inroads of this insect. I told the owner of the bird that I could effect a cure, but he laughed at me. Said he: "You dare not go near him. He has killed three dogs. I have seen him take a dog by the scruff of the neck with his beak and then tear a pound of meat from his ribs.' I told his owner that I would take the risk.

"I went to the forest and cut a strong, withy sapling. From this sapling I made a yoke, such as is used to put over the necks of geese to keep them from getting through fences. This yoke I succeeded in putting over the condor's neck. The condor was thus unable to use his formidable beak, although he tried hard to do so. Two men held his sound leg while I doctored the diseased one. The treatment I adopted was to bandage the condor's leg in cotton soaked in oil. Three days later I paid another visit to the condor. This time I cauterized the wounds and the result was that the leg became completely cured. The owner of the bird had doubted my surgical skill, and had said that if I cured the bird I could have him. I began to make preparations to have the condor transported to Central park. I found, however, that the expense would be enormous, involving relays of some thirty natives to carry the condor to the coast, besides his care on shipboard; and so Central park lost probably one of the finest specimens of the great South American condor which has ever been taken alive."—New York Evening Sun.

The Cleansing of Carpets.

One of the most prolific sources of the propagation of infectious or contagious diseases is, as you have more than once pointed out, the house carpet, which can retain the germs of these diseases. But as the carpets must be cleaned, and as the practice of beating them in the open air is considered a public nuisance, M. Bunel, the principal architect of the prefecture of police, was charged to devise some means by which this nuisance might be reduced to a minimum, or, if possible, entirely prevented. M. Bunel submitted an apparatus in the form of a cylinder to the council of public hygiene, in which the carpets are placed, and by a rotary motion the dust is dislodged.

The advantages of this invention over the ordinary method had been approved of; but M. Bunel soon discovered that the dust and other particles escaping from the carpets, instead of being burned, as he thought they would be, were utilized in industry for filling cushions, and the finer particles were employed for coating paper hangings, which give them their velvety appearance. This highly objectionable practice was soon brought to the notice of the police authorities, and on advice of the counsel of hygiene it is ordained that the dust and particles beaten out from carpets should be collected in closed apparatus and burned; but those who may wish to utilize them should have them previously disinfected and then submitted to a current of steam under pressure at a temperature above 100 degs. C., or of sulphurous acid.—Paris Cor. London Lancet.

A Peculiarly Russian Incident.

A daily paper at St. Petersburg, Russia, recently printed the following amusing paragraph: "The peasants of a village in the province of Saratof resolved to close the school and use the building as a saloon. The aldermen undertook the management themselves. They determined to sell their spirits on credit, taking their customers' notes for it. The old men of the village were appointed bartenders, waiters and bookkeepers. All the preliminaries settled, the hurlyburly commenced, everybody present drinking as much and as fast as they could draw the liquor. The school children, perceiving how jolly their sires were, and well acquainted with the locality, effected an entrance into the cellar and started a picnic of their own. Soon the men up stairs found their 'waters of life' running short, and, going down into the basement, they found their youthful imitators all stretched on the ground dead drunk, and all the barrels empty. What had not run into the little stomachs had flowed into the ground. The little fellows were so drunk that they refused being awakened by the terrible castigation their seniors inflicted on them."—Chicago News.

The Poor Boy at Harvard.

Far different are the circumstances under which the poverty stricken freshman with an allowance of $300 enters upon his academic career. He "rooms" in College house—a tumble down, uncomfortable barracks across the street from the yard. His apartment is unheated and ill furnished. The atmosphere, though cold, is one of hard study. The young men in whose company he is thrown have come to the university, like himself, to work. They are not frivolous. They have no money to frivol upon. Many of them—being driven by necessity to take a serious view of existence—seek consolation in religion. In this subject—I may as well remark parenthetically—Mr. Gerginus Midas, Jr., and his friends exhibit little or no interest. It is in College house that the headquarters of the Evangelical persuasion at Harvard are invariably found.

Once identified with this laborious element the youth becomes known contemptuously as a "digger" and a "grind"—in other words, a person whose excessive industry renders him socially ineligible. He "feeds"—no other word will justly express it—at Memorial hall, with 600 others, at $4.50 per week. At such a price—supposed to be net cost, with no rent to pay—the food, supplied thus by wholesale, ought to be of superlative quality. As a matter of fact, it is wretched. So—half starved and quite frozen—he goes through four dreary years of scholastic training, at the end of which he receives a degree of A. B., after delivering, in a shabby coat, before a large and cultivated audience an oration upon the "Advantages of a Liberal Education." He would have less to say did he know of what small value a college diploma really is to the young man who has to struggle for his bread and butter in an unsympathetic world.—Boston Cor. Chicago Tribune.

A gentleman who returned from the diamond districts of Brazil recently says that the stories of exhaustion of these once profitable mines are pure fabrications, designed to influence the market. He declares that he could buy $1,000,000 worth of uncut stones in Rio Janeiro tomorrow—if he had a million dollars.—New York Mail and Express.

MANUAL INSTRUCTION.

PROPOSED EXPERIMENTAL TRAINING IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Something of the Greatest Interest to Parents, Children and Teachers—Modeling, Drawing, Carving, Carpentering, Sewing, Cooking, Etc., to be Taught.

The form in which the experiment of manual training will be tried in the schools of New York has at last been decided by the board of education. The number of schools in which the experiment can be tried is limited to six male and six female grammar schools. The sum of $15,000 has been appropriated for the necessary supplies and salaries of the special teachers who will be engaged in this experimental work.

The course is designed to educate what Herbert Spencer calls the physical activities, and not to make carpenters, seamstresses or cooks. The training will be gained by means of lessons in shopwork for the boys and sewing and cooking for the girls. The work in this course begins in the third grade of the primary school when the boy is 9 years old, and is classed under the head of form and drawing. The little boys and girls will be taught all the elementary forms of drawing in this way. A wooden sphere will be placed in their hands and then each one will be set to work with a piece of plastic clay, which they will be instructed to mold into the form of a sphere. The next step, which illustrates the whole theory of instruction in drawing by this system, will be the molding of the clay into the shape of a cube. After the child has been taught the name of the object molded, each side will be traced on a piece of paper with a pencil, and the squares cut out of the paper, and the child will be shown how the cube can be formed from the paper thus cut. No drawing books will be used, and this method will be pursued until the child is accustomed to drawing the most complicated forms.

THE BOYS' GRADES.

When the boy reaches the eighth grade of the grammar school the first practical lessons in the shop begin. The use of simple instruments like the knife and saw are taught, applications of practical problems of geometry, and cutting and modeling from drawn work. In the seventh and sixth grades this same work is continued in a more advanced form.

In the fifth grade there is practice in more difficult modeling, and the boy learns how to make the butt, the butt miter, and the lap joints with the knife and jackplane.

In the fourth grade modeling is continued, working drawings of tools and joints made and the use of additional instruments taught—the cross cut, the saw, hammer and nails, and the chisel.

In the third grade drawings are made of everything which is to be fashioned by the boy. Simple forms will be modeled for carving and then carved from the wood. The lap scarf and miter joints will be taught, and the use of the gauge, rip saw, centerbit and hand screws.

In the second grade working sketches for shop work will be made, and drawings for simple forms, which will afterward be modeled and carved. The pupil will learn how to match the dovetail and mortice joints.

In the first grade the work will be completed, and the child carpenter will be able to make a dovetail box from the measurements and drawings. The average age of the boys at this time is about 14 years.

The girls will have instruction in drawing, and also in molding and construction, in addition to sewing and cooking.

In the third grade of the primary department, when the girl is in her ninth year, sewing is begun: Threading of the needle, use of the thimble and overhanding will be the first actual work.

In the second grade there will be taught sewing, hemming, seam sewing and overcasting; in the first grade, seams, back stitching, plain fells and bias fells.

In the eighth grade of the grammar school hems and bias fells will be reviewed and French fells and gathering taught. Then will follow instruction in button holes, sewing on buttons and patching in the seventh grade; hemming, bone stitching and flannel patching, darning socks, tears and cuts in the sixth grade; tuckings, gussets in the fifth grade, and in the fourth grade measuring and cutting paper patterns and fitting.

LEARNING TO COOK.

The girl will now be 12 1-2 years old and ready for instruction in cooking, which is given in the third and second grades. An entirely novel system will be pursued in this course. The philosophy of each step will be first taught before there is any practice in the actual cooking.

First, there will be an explanation of the physiological action of the human body which necessitates the use of food, the waste and repair of tissues. Then the necessity of cooking solid materials is shown, the elements in the food which supply the waste of the body, and the nutritive value of different kinds of food. After the qualities of the different kinds of fuel have been discussed, the philosophy of boiling will be expounded, and its effect on food. The physical effects of heat are made plain. Then come the general principles of baking, roasting, boiling, frying, etc.; the chemical effects of overheating, the principle of raising bread and biscuits and the chemical effects of yeast.

The selection, use and preservation of utensils will next engage the attention, and instruction in regard to avoidable causes of dyspepsia will be given. There is the discrimination between wholesome and unwholesome to be used in purchasing food. The necessity and manner of killing germs in food will be taught. It will be shown why milk and certain cooked foods sour and ferment, and why cold and ice, salt and other things produce certain effects. The need of cleanliness in use of all utensils and apparatus of cooking is impressed.

The effects of iron on tea and coffee, and the dangerous effect of acids and fats on copper, producing verdigris, will be explained. The child will also be taught how to purchase the choicest parts of a poor animal, and many other things which are essential to an intelligent and wholesome cooking of food.

Two hours a week will be devoted to form and drawing, two hours to shopwork, one hour to sewing and one to cooking.

The courses in arithmetic and geography are compressed to make room for the instruction in manual training. In this experimental curriculum history will no longer be memorized, but will be taught as a reading lesson, and a sympathy for animals will be cultivated by instilling an abhorrence of cruelty to brute creatures into the mind of the child.—New York Press.

A most wonderful invention is reported from Vienna. An Austrian engineer has, it is said, designed a truck to run before every railway train, being maintained always at a fixed (but adjustable) distance in front by the force of an electric current transmitted along the metals from a dynamo on the engine. The current is conducted through mercury contained in glass tubes on the pilot truck. If, therefore, the truck comes into collision the tubes are broken and the current consequently destroyed. The interruption of the current instantly and automatically applies the brakes on the following train. It is claimed by the inventor that two expresses, fitted with this system, might with impunity be set to run full tilt at each other. The collision of their pilot trucks would arrest the progress of both trains before they could meet. The element of human fallibility is accordingly entirely eliminated, and drivers may dash through a whole series of danger signals without risk, being automatically arrested the moment they reach the spot that is really dangerous.—St. James' Gazette.